

## **Rep. Crescent Hardy (NV-04) Testimony for HASC Member Day**

Good morning, Chairman Thornberry, Ranking Member Smith, and Members of the Committee.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify before you on the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017.

I want to first thank you for keeping small businesses and procurement reform top of mind when you were crafting last year's NDAA. The small business community appreciates your efforts.

To continue the conversation, I wanted to speak briefly concerning a small business contracting initiative that often gets less attention than it deserves.

Many times in contracting all of the efforts are concentrated on whether or not fair competition is being observed. While this is absolutely paramount in our society, the person that wins the contract is often immediately thrown into a firestorm of compliance issues and burdens.

Therefore while we observe pre-contract interactions, we also need to enhance post-award compliance.

With that said, I have introduced H.R. 4331, the Small Business Easy Contract Compliance Enhancement and List Act of 2016 to rectify this issue.

This straightforward legislation requires small business advocates at SBA along with other agencies that participate in Mentor-Protege programs to offer a list of resources to contract awardees.

To help reduce compliance burdens Chairman Chabot included post-award compliance language in his larger bill that offers important reforms for contractors and subcontractors.

I encourage you to take a serious look at Chairman Chabot's large contracting bill H.R. 4341, the Defending America's Small Contractors Act of 2016. These reforms will truly impact small businesses, one of our countries truest economic drivers.

I would now like to quickly draw your attention to an ongoing issue in my district that has national security implications.

My district in Nevada is the proud home of the Nevada Test and Training Range, which is the largest contiguous air and ground space available for military training operations in the free world.

It consists of 2.9 million acres of public lands underneath approximately 12,000 square nautical miles of Restricted airspace and Military Operations Areas.

The Air Force uses the NTTR to perform advanced exercises and tactics development in a multidimensional training environment unlike any other.

Yet despite the critical importance of the NTTR to our national security, multiple layers of duplicative regulations are preventing the Air Force from meeting defense test and training objectives do to the lack of ready access to withdrawn land.

This inability to fully utilize withdrawn lands also denies the full use of the Restricted airspace overlying the area, further restricting operational flexibility.

Mr. Chairman, the Air Force has been conducting bombing and gunnery practice, tactics development, and electronics testing and training on these lands since 1940, a full 34 years before the Fish and Wildlife Service nominated the area for wilderness designation.

And it was a flawed wilderness designation to begin with that refused to account for existing military impacts on the land.

What this all boils down to is that the military should not be saddled with multiple layers of duplicative regulations that hinder its ability to adequately train for missions that will keep the American people safe.

While the Department of Defense and the Department of Interior have inherently different missions, there is no reason why they cannot be better partners to arrive at commonsense solutions for the land they co-manage.

Mr. Chairman, my home State of Nevada is more than 85 percent federally controlled. While many Nevadans may have their disagreements with our federal land management agencies, we are proud to welcome the military personnel who call our state home.

We feel a sense of duty and patriotism to have these vital training activities taking place in Nevada, and we would like nothing more than to allow our servicemen and women the freedom to train for their missions.

Again, I'd like to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for the opportunity to speak before the committee this morning.